National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Meeting report: Threats to human health and environmental sustainability in the pacific basin

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Abstract:

The coastal zone of the Pacific Rim is home for about one-third of the world's population. Disproportionate growth of Far Eastern economies has produced a disproportionate share of related environmental difficulties. As the region searches for acceptable compromises between growth and environmental quality, its influence on global environmental health is certain to increase. Consequences of global environmental change such as habitat alteration, storms, and sea level rise will be particularly acute among Pacific Rim nations. Adverse health effects from arsenic exposure in Pacific Rim nations have been used to justify drinking water standards in the United States and elsewhere. As global manufacturing in the Pacific Rim increases, the centroid of global air quality and waste management issues will shift further toward Far Eastern nations. The Eleventh International Conference of the Pacific Basin Consortium (PBC) was held in September 2005 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The purpose of the conference was to bring together individuals to discuss regional challenges to sustainable growth. The historic emphasis of the conference on hazardous wastes in relation to human health makes the PBC an ideal forum for discussing technical aspects of sustainable economic growth in the Pacific region. That role is reflected in the 2005 PBC conference themes, which included management of arsenic in potable waters, air quality, climate change, pesticides, mercury, and electronics industry waste-each with emphasis on relationships to human health. Arsenic management exemplifies the manner in which the PBC can focus interdisciplinary discussion in a single technical area. The conference program provided talks on arsenic toxicology, treatment technologies, management of arsenic-bearing residuals from water treatment, and the probable societal costs and benefits of arsenic management.

Source: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2137106

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Sea Level Rise

Extreme Weather Event: Other Extreme Event

Extreme Weather Event (other): Storms

Food/Water Quality: Chemical

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Freshwater, Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States, United States

Non-United States: Asia, Australasia

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Region

Other Asian Region: Pacific Basin

Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Pregnant Women

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☑

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

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